Diversion of Forest Land for Non-Forest use

3509. SHRI MANMOHAN MATHUR :
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to em power various State Governments to divert forest lands for non-forest use upto 20 acres ; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIA MENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARA-MANGALAM) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Strategy to check Environmental Misuse

3510. SHRI SHAM1M HASHMI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the SAARC Panel has worked out a strategy to check environmental misuse and degradation and if so, the details thereof indicating time frame for implementing such project and funds allocated ; and

(b) whether Eco-Health groups as South South Solidarity New Delhi operating in the sub-continent will also be involved in this work ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIA-MENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARA-MANGALAM) : (a) and (b) The SAARC Secretariat has prepared the 'Regional Study on Causes and Consequences of Natural Disasters and Protection and Preservation of Environment. This Study includes recommendations from regional cooperation in disaster management and environmental conservation. In the SAARC Ministers' Meeting held at Colombo in November 1991 it was decided to set up a Committee on Environment to examine the recommendations and to propose measures for implementation. The first meeting of this Committee was held on 17—19 February, 1992 at Dhaka in which priority areas for implementation were identified. In the second meeting of the Committee proposed to be held in the second half of 1992 specific activities and modalities will be considered. The regional programme on environment envisages networking of institutions, exchange of expertise and training in the SAARC Region. The funding arrangements have not been decided so far. The recommendations for cooperation envisage active involvement of the Non-Government Organisations.

Diversion of Forest Land for Non-Forestry purposes

3511. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the area of forest and diverted for non-forestry purposes in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years ;

(b) the number of requests from the State Government during the last three years for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes ; and

(c) the decision taken on these proposals ?